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**BOROUGH of
GODMANCHESTER**

ANNUAL REPORT

**OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS of the
DISTRICT
DURING YEAR 1950**



**TO THE
GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL**

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to submit this my first Annual Report
for the year ending 31st December, 1950.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. M. MARKHAM.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health :

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. G. LANE, A.M.I.S.E., A.I.A.C.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	...	...	...	...	4,956 acres
Estimated Population (Mid 1949)	...				...	2,404
					(Mid 1950) ...	2,380
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1950						
per Rate Book	...	...	...	...		756
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£10,457
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£40 11 6

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	22	20	42	Birth rate per 1,000 esti-
Illegitimate	—	1	1	ated population ... 18.07
				(Ditto for England and
Total	22	21	43	Wales) ... 15.8

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	0.37
Legitimate	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and Wales)	...
Illegitimate	—	—	—		...
Total	—	—	—		...

DEATHS (all ages)	12	13	25	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	10.5
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	...
					11.6

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...
Illegitimate	...	...	...

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	—
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	29.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			—
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				—

Causes of Death

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	3
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	—	—
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	3	1
21.	Other circulatory disease	—	—

22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	—
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	1	2
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	—	—
Totals all causes ...						12	13

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.
(Tel. Huntingdon 67).

- (ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease.
(Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(c) HOME NURSING.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINICS—*See over*

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Mon. 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.	In the Hut at the rear of the Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE	Children (0-5 years)	Every Tues. 2-4 p.m.	
DENTAL	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon (by appointment)	10. Princes Street, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :

OPHTHALMIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	1st & 3rd Fridays in the mth. (By appointment except in emergency) 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon
ORTHOPAEDIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month (By appointment) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
CHEST	All ages.	Every Monday 2-30 to 3-30 p.m.	County Hospital. Huntingdon
(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.			
VENEREAL DISEASES All cases.		Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Thursdays at 7 p.m. Males : Wed. & Fri. 4-6 p.m. Females : Wed. 4-6 p.m. Fridays 10-12 noon.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge 28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Pædiatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever. Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The piped water supply purchased in bulk from Huntingdon Borough Council remained satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Average consumption in the Borough is 50,000 gallons per day, i.e., 20.7 gallons per head.

The bacteriological quality of the water was supervised by the producer authority. In addition two samples were taken for bacteriological analysis within the Borough. These were satisfactory.

Estimated No. of Dwellings supplied :—

Direct from Main supply	...	451
By stand pipes	...	189
By public or private wells	...	116

Estimated population supplied :—

Direct from Main Supply	...	1,403
By stand pipes	...	617
By public or private wells	...	398

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Drainage arrangements of the Borough remained the same—totally inadequate. Little change in the ditch treatment of sewage

has occurred since 1887. The number of W.C.'s connected to the existing system continued to increase—490 W.C.'s serving 367 dwellings. Bi-weekly collection of night-soil from 378 dwellings continued. Disposal of night-soil has caused some concern as the pit in use—an unsatisfactory method of disposal in any case—was near to overflowing. Alternative means of disposal have been under consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This is carried out by a Scammel refuse collector once weekly and disposed of on a dump in the Borough.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Bathing Station.—Still closed.

CAMPING SITES.

There was one licensed camping site in the Borough. Estimated number of campers at any time during the year was 8.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

23rd February, 1951.

To The Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester.

Madam,

During the year ended December 31st, 1950, 12 new Council Houses were built and occupied. 3 new private houses were built and occupied. 3 adaptations of houses were made, making 3 more separate dwellings.

There were 126 applicants on the housing list at the end of December.

The water consumption reached its highest at 50,000 gallons per day, making a consumption of 20.7 gallons per head per day.

There are now 490 water closets in the borough serving 367 dwellings and other premises, and 378 pail closets and 11 earth closets.

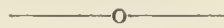
All complaints received were investigated and matters attended to. A further length of sewer ditch was cleaned and vegetation removed. A large extension to the night soil dump was excavated.

There were 28 nuisances abated as a result of informal action and 4 Statutory Notices were served and nuisances abated without proceedings being taken.

Other details and inspections and relevant matter is set out below.

INSPECTIONS.

Housing	...	...	...	...	...	190
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	40
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	10
After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Camp Sites	...	...	...	...	...	1
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	2
Disinfestation	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	8
School Kitchen	...	...	...	...	...	12
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	20



HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |
| (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose | | | | | 190 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... | ... | ... | | | — |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | — |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |

(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1
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2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	95
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—

- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year —
 (ii) Number of families dwelling therein —
 (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein —
 (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year —
 (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year —
 (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases —
 (d) Particulars in any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 1
 (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report —

The housing shortage remained acute. There were approximately 126 applicants on the Borough list for Council Houses .

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

No. of Registered Cowkeepers and Wholesale Purveyors	10
No. of Registered Retail Purveyors	6
No. of T.T. Licences in force	7
No. of Accredited Licences in force	4
No. of Unclassified Licences in force	9

MEAT

No. of Slaughterhouses	2
No. of Inspections	10

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

This Authority's duties under this Act (Sections 9—18. 21 (2), 31, 37—39) were transferred to Huntingdon County Council on 17th January, 1940.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year :
Bacon, 14 lbs.; Brawn, 8 lbs.; Cheese, 16 lbs.; Luncheon Meat,
4 lbs.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS G. LANE,

Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Incidence of Infectious Disease

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	37
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	Nil
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	...	Nil
Jaundice	...	...	...	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

From figures available at 31st December, 1950, 82.76% of the estimated child population (0—14 years) had received a primary course of immunisation against diphtheria, but only 69.77% of the babies (0—4 years) were so protected. These figures are an improvement on last year's, but are still not good enough. Every effort must be made to encourage mothers to protect their babies from this deadly disease before school age.

Facilities for Diphtheria Immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Centres, through the School Medical Service and General Practitioners.

Tuberculosis

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1950 ... 9

Pulmonary ... 5 Non-Pulmonary ... 4

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...				1				
15 ..								
20 ...								
25 ...								
35 ..								
45 ...								
55 ...								
65 and upwards				1				
Total	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

